

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00799 101630Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2277

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0799

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : BEXP, QA, BA

SUBJECT : BROWN AND ROOT OFF TO BAD START IN QATAR

REFERENCE : DOHA 0813

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL, I CALLED IN TONY GIBSON, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT BROWN & ROOT THEORETICALLY BASED IN HOUSTON BUT NORMALLY IN BAHRAIN, AND BAHRAIN BROWN & ROOT MANAGER DARRELL FARIS. EXPLAINED I HAD INDICATION THEY MAY HAVE RAISED SOME HACKLES IN QATAR, THAT I DID NOT KNOW THE CAST OF CHARACTERS AT ALL, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THEM IF THEY, OR ANYONE VISITING FROM HOUSTON OFFICE, WOULD CHECK IN WITH AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR CONTACTS WITH QATARI GOVERNMENT AND MERCHANT COMMUNITY. THEY WERE MOST APPRECIATIVE FOR EMBASSY DOHA'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE AND PROMISED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH IN FUTURE. GIBSON IS NOW ON HIS WAY BACK TO HOUSTON WHERE HE WILL PASS THIS MESSAGE ON TO VICE PRESIDENT ED O'SULLIVAN WHO ALSO SOMETIMES VISITS QATAR FOR BROWN & ROOT. BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THERE IS NO NEED FOR DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT BROWN & ROOT DIRECTLY BUT, OF COURSE, WILL LEAVE THAT UP TO DEPARTMENT.

2. COMMENT: GIBSON, WHO HAS BEEN COVERING GULF FOR OVER TEN YEARS (AS HAS O'SULLIVAN), SAID HE TALKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DURING LAST VISIT TO DOHA, PRIMARILY TO EXPLAIN BROWN & ROOT'S DESIRE TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE IN SELECTION OF AGENT. ALTHOUGH
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I DO NOT KNOW THE SITUATION ON THE SCENE AT ALL, I GOT THE

IMPRESSION FROM GIBSON-FARIS'S EXPLANATION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES
IN QATAR THAT THERE MAY BE A SIGNIFICANT MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN
AT WORK AGAINST BROWN & ROOT AS VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES
MANEUVER FOR THE QATARI AGENCY. IN ANY EVENT, ADDRESSESS MAY
BE ASSURED THAT BROWN & ROOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH GULF SCENE
TO AVOID ASKING AMIR OF BAHRAIN TO INTERCEDE WITH AMIR OF QATAR
ON THEIR BEHALF. AS MATTER OF COURTESY, THEY DO KEEP HIM
BRIEFED ON BROWN & ROOT ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE GULF.
TWINAM

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